



Kentucky Artisan Center at Berea

Tourism, Arts and Heritage Cabinet

Folk Artist Jo Ann Butts to Demonstrate Whimsical Roosters and Animals at Kentucky Artisan Center at Berea

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BEREA, Ky. – On Saturday, Nov. 29, folk artist Jo Ann Butts will demonstrate her whimsical folk art roosters and animals from 10:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. at the Kentucky Artisan Center at Berea.

Born in 1950 in an old log cabin where her father, grandfather and great-grandfather were born on the Watson family farm in eastern Kentucky, Butts grew up in a hard-scrabble family. She learned to make toys for herself and her siblings using a pocket-knife to make whistles, bow and arrows and a multitude of items.

“Growing up without anything helped sharpen my skills and helped me to learn how to work with my hands and create something from nothing,” she said.

Creating things runs in her family. After moving back to Kentucky from Ohio in 1999, it was her cousin, the famous folk artist Minnie Adkins, who encouraged Butts to begin working with wood. She started making small sheep and slowly branched out until she now creates a wide variety of animals that reflect having grown up on a large hillside farm. She paints her pigs, hedge hogs, sheep, skunks, fish, badgers, turtles and frogs with brightly colored paint.

Folk art by Butts is regularly available at the Kentucky Artisan Center, located at 200 Artisan Way, just off Interstate 75 at Berea Exit 77. The center’s exhibits, shopping and travel information areas are open daily from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., and the cafe is open from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Admission is free.

The Kentucky Artisan Center at Berea currently features works by more than 700 artisans from more than 100 counties across the Commonwealth. Special exhibits on display include “Put a Lid on It: Containers by Kentucky Artisans,” through Feb. 28, 2015; and on display in the lobby is, “Let it Snow” which includes a large Christmas tree featuring artisan ornaments and gifts. For more information about events call 859-985-5448, go to the center’s website at www.kentuckyartisancenter.ky.gov or visit us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/kentucky.artisan.center.

The Kentucky Artisan Center at Berea is an agency in the Tourism, Arts and Heritage Cabinet of the Commonwealth of Kentucky.



Jo Ann Butts and her carved and painted rooster